

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 31-44 and 46-57 are active in the present application. Claims 1-30 and 45 are canceled claims. Independent Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of previously presented Claim 45. Independent Claim 31 has been further amended to state that the claim process includes an active step of extracting. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification such as, for example, the Title.

The dependent claims have been amended accordingly. The dependent claims have been further amended to correct typographical and/or clerical errors. No new matter is added.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of Claim 45 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent Claim 31 is amended herein to include the limitations of previously presented dependent Claim 45. Independent Claim 31 has been further amended to state that the active step includes extracting.

Applicants submit that Claim 31 is now in condition for allowance.

The Office rejected Claim 33 based on the Office's assertion that Claim 33 fails to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants draw the Office's attention to page 14, line 22 of the specification where a temperature of 31.1 °C and a pressure of 7.3 MPa (i.e., 73 bar) is disclosed (1 MPa = 10 bar). Support for the upper temperature threshold (i.e., 80 °C) is found on page 12, line 11. Support for the upper pressure threshold (i.e., 300 bar) is found on page 12, line 11. Applicants submit that the specification as originally disclosed describes the lower and upper thresholds included in present Claim 33 and therefore the specification as originally disclosed shows that Applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 38 for failing to meet the possession requirement, Applicants draw the Office's attention to page 20, lines 8-10 where the following is disclosed:

The elimination of undesirable organic compounds and particularly TCA, without simultaneously eliminating ceroids necessary particularly for the good mechanical behavior of a bottle cork, is a surprising effect of the process according to the invention and is not described or suggested by prior art.
(Underlining added).

In view of the disclosure of the originally filed specification, quoted above, Applicants submit the specification as originally filed demonstrates Applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time of the filing.

With regard to the Office's rejection of Claim 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Applicants draw the Office's attention to original Claim 20 wherein the term "sheets" was explicitly recited. Applicants submit that the original claims demonstrate that Applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time of the filing.

With respect to the Office's rejection of Claim 57, Applicants submit that the amendment to the claims obviates the rejection.

The amendment to Claims 38 and 39 obviates the Office's objections with respect to the spelling of anisole.

The Office rejected Claims 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph stating that it is unclear whether "percent" refers to weight or volume percent. Applicants note that the subject matter of Claims 41 and 42 includes recitation of a ratio numeral presented as an "percent" number. It makes no sense to include a unit in this number because the 85% represents the amount of polycholorophenol extracted by the extracting of Claim 31. Because this amount is a ratio, no units are necessary.

Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are obviated by the remarks above and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections. Applicants submit the amendment to the claims places all now-pending claims in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,238

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SUK/rac